

*Amend Entered
for RCE*

*04/29/08
BT*

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a data network system for forwarding a communication message intended for a target device associated with a target user to another device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a communication message from an originating device;

retrieving configuration information and presence information of the target device, the configuration information including a forwarding list identifying at least one next device;

determining whether the target device is available for text messaging with the originating device based on the presence information;

routing the communication message to the target device if the target device is available for text messaging with the originating device; and

forwarding the communication message to a particular next device, associated with a next user, of the at least one next device of the forwarding list if the target device is unavailable for text messaging with the originating device, wherein the forwarding list is a contact or buddy list for an instant messaging system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring the configuration data of the target device before the step of receiving the communication message from the originating device.